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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,911	09/19/2003	Kazumoto Shinojima	9319S-000551	6489
27572	7590	02/28/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			CHIAM, DINH D	
P.O. BOX 828			ART UNIT	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			PAPER NUMBER	
			2883	

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/666,911

Applicant(s)

SHINOJIMA, KAZUMOTO

Examiner

Erin D. Chiem

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11,13,16,20 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11,13,16,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to applicant's request for continued examination filed on January 12, 2006. Claims 3-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-19 are canceled and currently, claims 1-2, 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 are pending.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

All information disclosure citation are now considered.

### ***Claim Objections***

Objection made to claim 20 is now withdrawn in view of the amendment.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

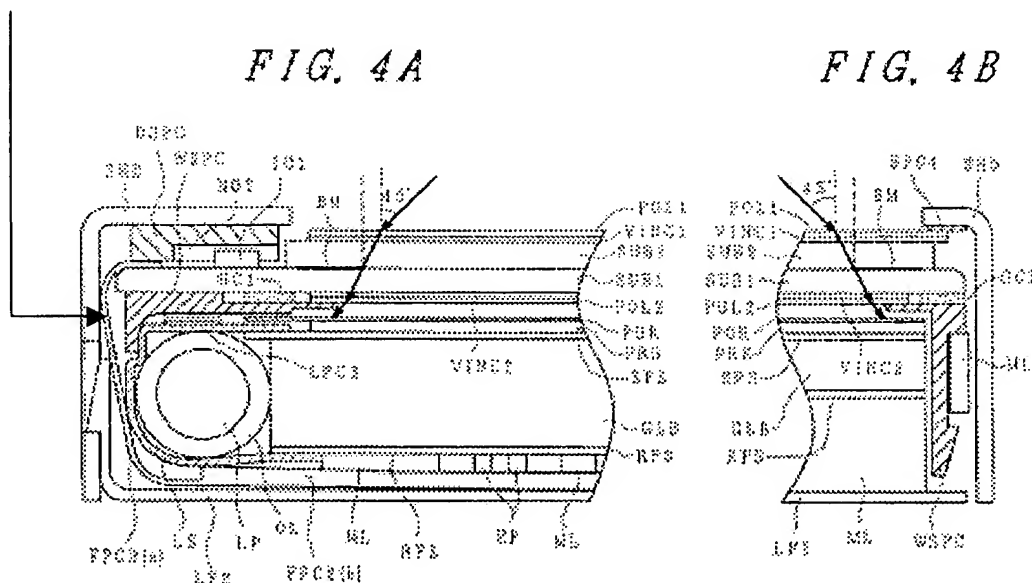
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-2 and 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (US 6,147,724 A).

Regarding claims 1 and 21, in Fig. 4A and 4B, Yoshii discloses an electro-optical device comprising: an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material; a holding member SHD for holding the electro-optical panel SUB1; a light guide plate GLB illuminating the electro-optical panel GLB; a wiring circuit board FPC2 (a or b) disposed in the rear of the light-guide

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plate GLB; a conductive terminal disposed on the wiring circuit board FPC2 (a), a circuit board IC1 arranged substantially in parallel with a surface of the electro-optical panel SUB1; a connector mounted on the circuit board ACF2 having an elastically deformable connector terminal (see zoomed in view on Fig. 35); wherein the thickness of the light-guide plate gradually decreases in the predetermined direction to form an inclined surface (see detail view of the light-guide plate in Fig. 26B); wherein the wiring circuit board is disposed on the inclined surface;



wherein the connector terminal is brought into conductive contact with the terminal, and wherein the connector is adjustable in the predetermined direction on the circuit board.

Regarding claim 2, the instrument further comprising a fixing structure for fixing the holding member on a mounting surface of the circuit board at the arrangement position SHD.

Regarding claim 11, the instrument further comprising controlling means IC1 for controlling the electro-optical device.

Regarding claims 13 and 16, wherein the circuit board is provided with a mounting terminal, which is brought into conductive contact with the connector, and has a shape extending in the predetermined direction FPC2(a) and FPC2(b) wherein the terminal has a shape extending in the predetermined direction.

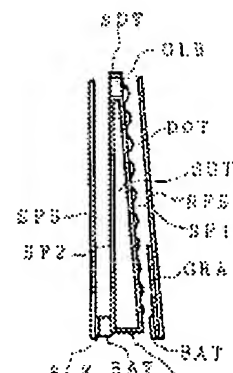
Regarding claim 20, the instrument further comprising a light source LP for introducing light inside the light-guide plate from an edge of the light-guide plate, wherein the light-guide source is arranged to oppose an edge of the light-guide plate GLB disposed in a direction opposite to the predetermined direction.

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed January 12, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's only considerable arguments are:

1. Yoshii fails to teach a light guide plate having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface or a connector that is adjustable in the predetermined direction on a wiring circuit board.
2. Yoshii fails to teach a light guide plate having a surface inclined in a predetermined direction along a circuit board.
3. Yoshii fails to teach a connector disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board that is adjustable in a direction of inclination of a light guide plate.

*FIG. 26B*



The examiner's response are as followed:

1. Fig. 26B clearly shows an inclined light guide plate. Regarding the connector that is adjustable in the predetermined direction on the wiring circuit board is not claimed, however the connector that is adjustable...on the circuit board is claimed and rejected, see above rejection.
2. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a light guide plate having a surface inclined in a predetermined direction along a circuit board) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).
3. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., connector disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board that is adjustable in a direction of inclination of a light guide plate) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

***Conclusion***

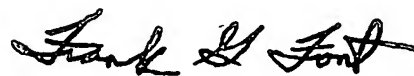
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin D. Chiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-3102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Erin D Chiem  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font  
Supervisory Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2800